Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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Aristasian Money

Westrenne Aristasian money comes in three denominations, Sovereigns, Shillings and Pence. There are twenty shillings to a sovereign and twelve pennies to a shilling. The abbreviation for a penny is d (for duodecima) so sixpence is usually written 6d and the stress falls on "six" not on "pence" as it would in Pit-england. Where there are shillings and pence they are separated by an oblique stroke, so 6/6d means six shillings and sixpence (often said simply "six-and-six"). Six shillings would be written 6/- or 6s.

The divisions of a penny are 1/2d (a halfpenny, pronounced "hayp'ny") and 1/4d, a farthing (originally *fourthing*, but now the "th" is voiced, as in "this", not "thin").

In some areas, notably Novaria and the hither-East, the primary unit of currency is the Crown, or five shillings. In Novaria this is a gold coin of higher value than a Trentish Sovereign. Naturally the Novarian Shilling is of very much higher value than the Trentish Shilling. In the non-Novarian Westrenne nations there is no crown-piece, though there is a half-crown (two shillings and sixpence).

In some Aristasian communities in Telluria, pre-decimal British coins (which have the same denominations as non-Novarian Westrenne ones) are used for small internal transactions (such as attending District Kinemas or buying ice-cream sodas). These are normally stamped with a "validation mark" to indcate that they are valid Aristasian currency and not just old British coins.

The official exchange rate is about one shilling to one Pit-pound, but in fact the actual purchasing power of the Aristasian shilling is rather higher than that would suggest. For example, a cinema seat ranges between 5d and 9d - the Pit equivalents would be under half a pound and three-quarters of a pound.

Note that Yeekish "pence" are not mentioned by a tasteful Aristasian - the term BCs (bongo cents) is used where reference to them is unavoidable (the same is true of "Euros" which are referred to, where really necessary, as "Octomarks"), but normally the ready translation of Yeekish pounds to Aristasian shillings avoids the problem. Half a

Yeekish Pound (50 BCs) is 6d, a quarter (25 BCs) is 3d and so forth, so rough translations are easily made.

In America, dollars, which are not a post-Eclipse innovation, are freely referred to.

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